

**Golf Commission Meeting
March 26, 2012
Minutes**

Members Present: Ron Dray, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Teri Deal; Dick DeLibro, Joe DeLuca; Tony Guzzi; Tony Johnson; Joyce Michaels; Jonathan Turk

Members Absent: None

Ron Dray, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

Review and Approval of Prior Minutes:

Review and approval of the Minutes of February 27, 2012 . . . A Motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. DeLuca to approve the minutes with an addition under the approval of the 2012 rates to read “A copy of the 2012 Tashua Knolls Golf Course 2012 season rates is attached”. Motion carried unanimously.

Audience Participation:

- Mr. Al DeWalt of the Senior Men’s Club asked if the Commission was considering bringing back the Town Tournament that has not been scheduled at the golf course for several years. Mr. Dray responded that many players, himself included, enjoyed the Town Tournament very much. However, the tournament cost the golf course approximately \$15,000 to hold and it was felt that the course could no longer absorb this cost. The Commission was open for discussion about the tournament, but the rates would have to rise dramatically in order for it to be brought back.

Director of Golf Course Properties Report (Owen Evans for Hidalgo Nagashima):

Labor:

- Director of Golf Course Properties (Nagashima)
- Mechanic (Plaveck)
- Full-time Greensmen (Cook, Cook, Gallant, Romano)
- Eight part-time seasonal (Messina, DeFrancisco, Quinn, Hoepfner, Markaj, Goodwin, Oleyar, Balkin)

Maintenance Department Outline:

- Some of the seasonal groundskeepers have returned to work earlier than normal due to the unusually warm weather. Mr. Nagashima will closely monitor the labor hours to stay within our budget. If necessary the summer help will start a few weeks later to make up the difference.

- The Knolls tees were aerified today. The Glen tees will be aerated when it breaks dormancy. The front 9 Knolls greens will be aerated on April 9th, the back 9 on April 10th, and the Glen on the 11th.
- A great deal of sand was lost to wind in the bunkers due to lack of snow cover over the winter. The maintenance staff has begun to sift the bunkers and pick out the rocks.
- One pond aerator is in and the other will be installed this week. The aerators are only being fixed in-house and will be used until they break beyond repair.
- The on-course bathrooms have had the water turned off again due to the return of freezing temperatures overnight.

Project Follow-up:

- Another finger has been installed on the drain on #17. This seems to have sufficiently dried these areas.
- The areas on #15 and #17 have been repaired and seeded.
- The bunkers on #18 will be open on April 2
- Mr. Nagashima has received three quotes for storage containers for the maintenance area and will purchase them this week.
- Mr. Nagashima met with the Green Committee to determine a list of priorities for the upcoming season.

Green Committee (Owen Evans):

- Mr. Evans elaborated on the drainage work on the course to say that he felt confident that the water problems were due to underground springs rather than rain water collecting in certain areas. He is very pleased with the results of the recent work on the course and hopes to be able to do more drainage project next winter. Additional problems on #13 and #18 will be worked on next.

Director of Golf Operations/Head Professional Report (Bobby Brown & Jon Janik):

Monthly Overview:

- The course opened on Sunday, March 4th. We had planned to open on the 2nd, but the weather did not cooperate.
- The week of March 19th had four days in the 70's with March 22nd in the 80's.
- The golf course is in great shape.
- The pre-season rates ran until March 18th with the 2012 rates taking affect on the 19th.
- There have been some complaints regarding the regular rate on the Glen. Although the rate remains the same as last season, there is a large difference between the special and the regular rates. If complaints continue to come in, we will need to re-visit the issue.

Golf Operations:

- The Point of Sale (POS) computers are very sluggish this year. Both our POS and our tee reservation companies are investigating the problem.
- ID sales are very strong. To date in March we have sold 533 versus 308 in all of March 2011.

- Ads are running in the Trumbull Times, The Review, FCE Trumbull Sports, and Channel 17.
- E-blasts, facebook and twitter posts are running.
- There is an open position for one additional starter and one additional ranger. Approximately 12 individuals will be interviewed this week.

Pro Shop:

- New merchandise is arriving daily.
- Several Thursday demo days are already scheduled. The pro shop will be supporting more vendors this season.

Miklus Center:

- The concrete work on the floor is complete. The rug is on order and should be installed shortly.
- Mr. Brown, Mrs. Miklus, and Mr. David Galla met with the Kennedy Center to discuss a program for both adults and children with autism. All involved are very excited about the program.
- Mr. Brown is also working to put together some programs for veterans returning from active duty to help them with the trauma and stress of returning. He is looking forward to working out some programs with the Wounded Warrior Project.

Additional:

- Mr. Evans asked if the rangers could make it their responsibility to fix stakes and ropes that they find down along the course. Mr. Brown responded that this should have been their responsibility all along and he will make a point to remind them all.
- Mr. Dray asked about the current starting time and requested that we make every effort to open by 7:30 AM in order to maximize profits. Mr. Brown responded that he will make every effort to do this depending on any remaining frost conditions.

House Committee (Tony Johnson):

- Mr. DeLibro updated the status of the proposed work to be completed at the Maintenance Barn structures. He has received three quotes for the paving and three quotes for the materials and labor for the structures. He also felt that we should add another 10% to that figure to allow for any additional problems that may arise. He felt confident that a sum of \$65,000 would be sufficient. Mr. John Ponzio, Town Treasurer, added that we would need to get our request in to the Board of Finance by the end of this week in order to be added to the April agenda. If approved at that time, we would have to go before the Town Council in May in order to proceed with the plan. A letter will be drafted to the Board of Finance by the end of week.
- Mr. Dray asked Mr. Johnson to get three quotes so that we can proceed with the new gutters. The cost of the gutters will be covered by our capital account.
- Mr. Dray informed the Commission that the compressor on the sprinkler system failed over the weekend. This was not a surprise as we have been advised of its condition. We are operating on a temporary basis by borrowing Mr. Brown's compressor. We received a quote from Fairfield Sprinkler with two options. The first for \$1,938 is for a similar compressor to the one we have. The second option for \$3,208 would add a 20-gallon air maintenance device. The opinion of both Mr. John

Button, and Mr. Johnson is that the second option is recommended from an operational standpoint.

A motion was made by Mr. Dray; seconded by Mr. Evans; to approve the installation of a 1-1/2 HP tank-mounted air compressor with a separate air maintenance device for the fire sprinkler system. The cost is \$3,208 and will come from the capital account. Motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Dray also informed the Commission that it has been determined that the problem with the sprinkler heads occasionally freezing in the club house is that even though our system is a dry system, they were installed with wet pendants. The pendants could be changed to dry pendants at a cost of \$225 each. Mr. Dray asked for and received Commission consensus to replace three pendants that have caused us problems to date. The cost is \$675 and will come from the capital account.
- Mr. Brown informed the Commission that there are several holes in the range net off of the 18th hole. He asked that we consider fixing it to avoid potential problems. The Commission agreed that the net should be repaired and asked Mr. Brown to follow-up

Finance (Jonathan Turk):

Monthly revenue - February (Off of Christine's Income Spreadsheets)

Revenue 2011

*Reported by C. Plumeau and POS system***

Total Income** (No cart income)

<u>Feb 2011</u>	<u>Feb 2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$4,676	\$3,180	-32%

Knolls** (including carts)

<u>Feb 2011</u>	<u>Feb 2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$ 0	\$ 0	+0%

Glen** (including carts)

<u>Feb 2011</u>	<u>Feb 2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
\$ 0	\$ 0	+0%

Items of Note:

- Golf course opened Sunday, March 4th.
- New rates applied on Monday, March 19th.
- Revenue so far this month (March) has exceeded \$120,000.

Correspondence:

- None.

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- Mr. Dray asked the Commission to consider adopting a policy regarding customers' use of golf carts in restricted areas. He stated that there is an approved policy in place for handicapped patrons. He suggested that we consider a three-strike policy for all customers. The first would be a warning, second the cart would be taken away and the customer's name written down, and the third violation would result in suspension of golf privileges for a year. A discussion ensued with various scenarios. Mr. Dray asked that all Commissioners come to the next meeting prepared to decide on a solution.
- Mrs. Deal asked that the Commission consider banning golf carts from the parking lot. A discussion ensued as to pros and cons of this policy. Mr. Dray asked that all Commissioners come to the next meeting to decide on a solution.
- Mr. Dray informed the Commission of an accident one of Mr. Faustini's, Concessionaire Gralor Inc., employees had in a golf course cart. The employee had a practice of using a course cart to haul garbage to the dumpsters. On the way back from the dumpsters, the employee hit a light pole in the parking lot and was knocked unconscious. Fortunately, the employee is fine, but the cart sustained approximately \$860 in damage. Mr. Faustini has agreed to pay for the damage. Mr. Dray asked the Commission's opinion of continuing to allow Mr. Faustini and/or his staff to use a golf course cart for Gralor Inc. business.

Mrs. Deal made a motion, seconded by Mr. DeLuca, to suspend the use of any golf course carts by Gralor Inc. employees except for the sole purpose of golfing in which case the operator must sign the Golf Car Agreement at the time they register to play in the pro shop. Motion passed 8; Abstain: Turk

Executive Session:

Mr. Evans made a motion at 8:45 PM, seconded by Mr. DeLuca, to move into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to exit Executive session was made by Mr. Evans at 9:18 PM and seconded by Mr. DeLibro. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Evans at 9:21 PM; seconded by Mr. Turk to adjourn the meeting.
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine A. Plumeau
Golf Course Commission Clerk